

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 200835Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 794

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 2683

E.O. 116652: N/A

TAGS:(PFOR, SSN

SUBJECT: LEE COMMENTS ON US MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA

1. NEW NATION JUNE 20 CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY
BASED ON REUTER DISPATCH FROM LONDON HEADLINED
"LEE: US PULLOUT NOT CONTROLLED -- LURCHING
FROM STEP TO STEP." ACCORDING STORY LEE WAS
ASKED IN BBC RADIO INTERVIEW JUNE 19 WHETHER HE
FELT OVERALL BALANCE OF EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST
ASIA SINCE THE US WITHDRAWAL GOT UNDER WAY
HAD BEEN "FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC, FAIRLY CONSTRUCTIVE."

2. REPORT SAID LEE REPLIED THAT UP TO MID-1973
PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL
RATE AT WHICH AMERICAN COMMITMENTS WERE BEING
SCALED DOWN. HOWEVER,"ONCE CONGRESS, AS A
RESULT OF WATERGATE AND OTHER PROBLEMS, VETOED
PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE
BOMBING CAMBODIA AND CUT DOWN ON AID FUNDS FOR
BOTH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PURPOSES TO VIETNAM
EVERYBODY SAT UP AND TOOK NOTICE. I THINK THE
RATE OF SCALING DOWN IS NO LONGER SO WELL MODU-
LATED AND CONTROLLED. IT IS LURCHING FROM STEP TO
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STEP ."

3. REPORT ALSO SAID LEE COMMENTED ON CONSEQUENCES FLOWING FROM PRESIDENT NIXON'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN 1971 OF US DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINA. THESE CONSEQUENCES INVOLVED "CONSIDERABLE LOSS AND DISTURBANCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTESTED AREAS ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE CHINESE SOUTH-EASTERN RIM."

4. STORY ALSO REPORTED LEE COMMENTED IN HOPEFUL VEIN RE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND CHINA. HE ALSO SAID UK MINISTERS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT HMG HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO WITHDRAW ITS REMAINING MILITARY FORCES FROM SINGAPORE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST EMBASSY LONDON FORWARD COMPLETE TEXT OF BBC INTERVIEW TO EMBASSY SINGAPORE AND DEPARTMENT FOR EA/IMS. GRANT

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Message Attributes

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